

295 EAST MAIN STREET, WESTMINSTER

BLIZZARD HOUSE

The Yingling-Reese-Blizzard House has been important to the City for two centuries. Built on lot number 1 of the original town (as laid out in 1764), the place was the home and tanyard of Jacob Yingling, and tanning was the city's first important industry. Later, the place passed onto the Reese family (prominent merchants) who remodelled it in the then fashionable Second Empire style, although retaining the original half and double-parlor floor plan. Decorative features abound - the hall has hammered metal panels, and the house's mantels (original and 19th century) are justifiably locally renowned.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

"Jacob Yingling's Home"

AND/OR COMMON

"Blizzard Home"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

295 East Main Street (MD 32)

6

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Carroll

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☒ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC

☐ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES, RESTRICTED

☐ YES, UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER "Apts"

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dennis F. Blizzard

Telephone #: 823-6639

STREET & NUMBER

295 East Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 603

Folio #: 200

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Westminster Bicentennial Celebration

DATE

October 1964

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Carroll County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Main Street (Md. Route 32), and Manchester Avenue in Westminster, the Blizzard House, No. 295 East Main Street, stands on Lot Number 1 of the original town. The south and east facades are flush with the sidewalk, while gardens protect it to the north and west.

The house, one of Westminster's few second empire structures, is a 3 bay - 3 story near cube. There is a 2-bay - 2 story section to the northeast with a 1-bay - 1 story extension to the northeast of it, creating a long stepped east facade. The main house and all the additions are of brick, painted a pale grey; all trim is painted white. Doors are located at the first bay (from the west) of the main facade and at the southern bay of the 2 story extension.

Three brick chimneys add interest to the skyline; a large exterior chimney rises perpendicular to the main house where it meets the first addition. There is a simple flat-capped chimney flush with the center of the east facade of the main house, and an interior flat-capped chimney a few feet from the north wall of the first addition.

A slate mansard roof tops the main house; the roof is trimmed at all four corners and along the entire top edge with a simple white band. The shed roof of the first addition is covered with red asbestos sheets, as is the flat roof of the second addition.

Above the low foundation, the brick walls of the main house and of the first addition are laid in common bond (4 and 6 course, respectively); the second addition is laid in stretcher bond.

Although windows are to be found on all sides, the entrance (south) and east facades display the greatest and most regular fenestration. The windows in the roof are regularly spaced as they are in the 3 bay south and 4 bay east facades, and in the 2 bay east and west facades of the first addition. Double hung sash windows are to be found in the main home (one over one lights) and in the first addition (two over two); the single opening in the second addition is a four-light outwardly opening casement window. End brackets support full architraves over all the south facade windows, a cusped band runs below the architrave. Windows on the other main house facades, as well as on the first addition, are all topped with a 3 course gauged arch. The window in the second addition is untrimmed. Each of the eight round arched dormer windows is flanked by a fluted pilaster;

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1800

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

John Reese

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architectural significance of the Blizzard house is as a fine example of the Second Empire (General Grant) Style. It is perhaps, along with 230 East Main Street, the finest example of this very popular late nineteenth century style in Westminster. If the 1880's chimneys had been kept it would present an even bolder statement, but, even with these missing the cornice molding, the high mansard roof, the varied window trim and different bracket styles, all combine to create a definite, yet controlled power.

Although the late one story addition and the porch (which also dates from the 1880's) would be puzzling to Napoleon III, they are eminently suited to an American small-town residence in that they give truth to the comment by Arthur Gilman (co-architect of Boston's City Hall) that the Second Empire Style should grow naturally out of the character and requirements of the structure.

The porch and addition further help as they (probably accidentally) form an easy transition between the sought-for sophistication of the Blizzard house and its more provincial neighbors - the porch leads the eye to the porch of the Wagner Home (to the west), and the added step in the eastern skyline moves us with ease to the outbuildings to the north. Further, the length and closeness to the street of the east facade creates tense excitement as one progresses, by foot or by car, down Manchester Avenue, an excitement whirl is resolved as one enters the intersection and sees the length and breadth of Main Street (squeezing and exploding on a small scale). This crossroads is an important site in Westminster's urban family; the Blizzard home satisfies the demands of the site.

The site is even more important to the town's social and political history. In 1957 the Mayor and City Council of Westminster erected a plaque on the southeast corner of the building which states:

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a stone in the Manchester Road, then with the road South 52 degrees West 118 minutes to Main Street, then with Main Street., North 31 degrees West 81½ minutes, then North 58 degrees East 158 minutes to an alley, then 532 degrees East 62 minutes then 554½ degrees 76 minutes, then southwesterly 6 minutes to the beginning.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks

September, 1976

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

7

the pilasters, in turn, all "aided" by rosetted brackets and support hood arches. Fairly coarse fret work trims the outside of each pilaster while the interiors of the hoods have a cusped trim similar to that found about the windows of the south facade.

Rising above 2 white marble steps, the entrance door has an elliptical transom and is covered by a full architrave with a deep dentil cornice. Rosetted brackets support this. The door which leads to the large west side porch is the first bay (from the main house) of the first addition. It has a simple rectangular transom and is topped, as are all the bays in the first addition, by a 3 course gauged arch.

The porch has a flat tin roof supported by square posts. Quatrefoil trim runs beneath the roof on either side of each post. Small brackets support the heavy molded cornice which protects the eaves of the house. The eaves of the 2 additions are undecorated. The present structures date from the 1880's when the then owners, the Reese's (see title data), remodeled and enlarged the existing late eighteenth century home of the Yingling's. The original home was L shaped with the stroke of the L coming from the west; thus the entrance was in the same place it is now, but it led not to today's wide hall, but to a small square room. The house had seven rooms - two rooms on each floor (to the east of the entrance hall), and with a lean-to kitchen off the rear. This "squaring off" and the large staircase that accompanied it, doubtless explains the paucity of windows on the west facade.

The original chair-rail and wooden sun-burst mantles were removed in the 1880's as a part of this modernizing; they are still owned by the present owner. The new mantles are heavy, marble and grey. It was at this time that "Addition 1" took its form when the former cook's loft was made into a full story.

Interestingly, the present chimneys are much more similar to the originals than to those of the 1880's. There are extant photographs which show the 1880's chimneys (dimly) as being typical of the second empire style - bulbous and grand. They were found weak "some-time between the wars" (according to the owner's mother), probably in the 1930's.

Paint scrapings reveal that the first coat of paint the bricks received (date unknown) was ocher. The present grey is thought, by the owner, to date from c. 1900.

AT THE REAR OF THIS PROPERTY
 THERE IS A GREEN STONE
 MARKING THE STARTING POINT
 OF THE PATENT FOR WHITE'S LEVEL
 OF SEPTEMBER 27, 1738,
 AND FOR THE SURVEY OF THE
 TOWN OF WESTMINSTER
 MADE BY
 WILLIAM WINCHESTER
 IN 1764,
 AND SHOWN ON THE PLAT
 RECORDED BY HIM IN
 FREDERICK COUNTY IN 1768.

Thus, the lot partially occupied by the Blizzard House and garden is a part of "Lot Number One" on the first map of "White's Level", the oldest section of Westminster.

In 1832, when Westminster was incorporated lots numbers one and two were the site of the "brick residence" of Jacob Yingling Tanner and of his tanyard. (From the diary of Katharine Jones Shellman.) Late photographs show how the land between the house and tanyard was filled up with more pleasurable pavilion aviaries and latticed gazebos (the approximate placement of which can be seen on an 1877 map of the City).

The siting of the houses (right on Manchester Avenue) has caused comment for sometime. The present owner possesses the diary of a confederate soldier who noted, while marching through the City en route to Gettysburg, that the cities of Northern Maryland have the "darndest habit of building their great houses right up to the street and of using their lawn for stables". The stable referred to is now a dwelling - No. 16 Manchester Avenue.

Perhaps the finest compliment paid the Blizzard house, in its original form, was made by Col. William Maulsby. The Colonel, Carroll County's first state senator and an original member of the County bar, made reference to the house in an oration given April 11, 1887, during the County's Semicentennial Celebration. In this speech, Col. Maulsby remembered the City's early history and how there were, in 1837, very, very few "respectable brick buildings in Westmisnter", - one of the dozen he named was "the residence of Mr. Jacob Yingling". In the same speech, the Colonel discussed the nine families most important in the County's founding, among which were "all the Yingling's".

Tanning, an enterprise directly connected with the house, was the town's first industry, and was the cause of its early prosperity "At one time no hamlet, village, or town in Maryland tanned more, or better, leather than Westminster...In the early days of Westminster, the tanning industry was its principal industry." (American Sentinel, September, 1912.)

7

The lot and home remained in the Yingling family until 1800. When Jacob and his wife, Mary, were both dead, (date uncertain) but certainly by 1868 when their heirs began squabbling in equity court, their real estate passed to their children, John, (who received the Blizzard home), Elias, Joshua, William, Mary Ann (Webster), Margaret (Sharer), Sarah Jane (Reese), Sarah (Bartholomew), and Caroline (Everhart). Equity case #1484 (September 9, 1874) finds William Yingling plaintiff against Viola Reese (his niece?) after John Yingling's death. Elias was appointed trustee to sell the land, and, in deed 57/80, January 28, 1882, sold the old home to John Reese. The lot contained 14,710 square feet. It is probably safe to assume that Reese, a prosperous shopkeeper, then remodeled the old Yingling home into its present Second Empire Style.

The lot was split c. World War I: in deed 127/45, March 3, 1915, John and Elizabeth (his wife) Reese sold a 20' strip to Maggie M. and George R. Babylon of Baltimore City, who sold it back to John Reese in deed 138/76, March 3, 1921. John Reese sold the rest of the land to John Francis Reese (his son) in deed 127/43, March 3, 1919. The lot resumed its former dimensions on St. Patrick's day, 1921, when all the land was sold back to John and Elizabeth Reese. John Reese died, and on September 28, 1925, his widow, Elizabeth, sold the house and lot to Howell Davis and Bertha C. Davis his wife, for \$6,525. (This is the first time a figure is mentioned; until now, all deeds had \$1 consideration and 50¢ worth of I.R.S. stamps.) A metes and bounds description is given, and it is said to be the same and all as 57/80. On October 16, 1925, the Davis' sold the land to Arthur V. Blizzard and Florence K. Blizzard, his wife, for \$7,300; Arthur Blizzard died, Florence remarried a Mr. Brown, who soon died, and on September 12, 1975, the house and lot (less the stable area which had been sold - 214/504) were conveyed to her son Dennis F. Blizzard, the present owner.

0701214304 CARE 121

1. STATE *Md*
COUNTY *Care*
TOWN *Westminster* VICINITY
STREET NO.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY

2. NAME *295 E. Main*

DATE OR PERIOD *18th.*

STYLE

ARCHITECT

BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE
PRESENT OWNER
PRESENT USE
WALL CONSTRUCTION
NO. OF STORIES

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC

*Charles Angel owned in 1764 (lot 1)
later - Jacob Jungling's dwelling & Tannery
Mrs. Florence Blizard Brown owner, 1964*

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE

Endangered

Interior

Exterior



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

*Westminster Bicent. Program
for 10/4/1964*

7. PHOTOGRAPH

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

*Riviera 10/50
MHT*

DATE OF RECORD

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION

APPLICATION — PART 1

(Pursuant to the Tax Reform Act of 1976)

Instructions: Applicant should read the instructions carefully before completing application. No Certification may be made unless a completed application has been received (P.L. 94-455). Use typewriter or print clearly in dark ink to complete the application form. If additional space is needed to complete Part 1, use the reverse side or a separate plain sheet of paper clearly indicating the owner's name and mailing address. Part 1 of this application may be completed and sent to the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer at any time during the year, and may be sent separately or with Part 2.

PART 1 EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

1. NAME OF PROPERTY: Blizzard House (Is on Nat. Reg.: verified Ronald Anderson)

Address of property: Street 295 East Main Street

City Westminster County Carroll State Maryland Zip Code 21157

Name of historic district in which property is located Westminster, Maryland

2. DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE: (See Building of Westminster, C. Weeks)
(see instructions for map and photograph requirements—use reverse side if necessary) Two story painted brick house with mansard third story above front half. An open porch wraps parts of two sides which face a lawn. Two log framed out buildings and a graveled parking area lie immediately behind structure. First floor rooms have two marble mantels and embossed copper wainscoting in hall and stairs. (over)

3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: (use reverse side if necessary) House is thought to be the first "planned" brick dwelling in Westminster (1795-1800) "advantageously" set on the road lines of the junction of the Baltimore, Georgetown, Pittsburgh, and York roads. The structure is also considered the Westminster prototype of Second Empire remodeling when c. 1878 the Mansard and other elements were superimposed
Date of construction (if known): 1795-1800 ☒ Original site ☐ Moved Date of alterations (if known): c. 1878

4. NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF OWNER:

Name Dennis F. Blizzard

Street 805 Kellogg Road

City Lutherville

State Maryland Zip Code 21093

Telephone Number (during day): Area Code 301 823 6639

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is to the best of my knowledge correct, and that I am owner of the property described above.

Signature Dennis F. Blizzard

Date Feb-22-82

For office use only

The structure described above is included within the boundaries of the National Register historic district and ☒ contributes ☐ does not contribute to the character of the district.

The structure ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6) and ☐ will likely ☐ will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with the Department of the Interior procedures (35 CFR 60).

The structure is located in a district which ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6). ☐ will likely ☐ will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with Department of the Interior procedures (35 CFR 60), and ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to contribute to the character of said district.

Signature J. M. Hill
State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 3-11-82

This property has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Department of the Interior (36 CFR 67) and, if subject to depreciation, under section 167 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

☐ is hereby certified a historic structure
☐ does not contribute to the character of the historic district and does not merit certification as a historic structure. Reasons given on the attached sheet.

Signature _____ Date _____
Representative of the National Register

#2 (con't.) The second floor contains several rooms with original chair rails and the main chamber has the original Adams-type carved wood mantel.

The third floor has eight half round arch dormer windows.

Cellar floors are original brick, while the floors on the first are oak random width and on the second pine or cypress random width.

Stair case is original pegged pencil newels and oak treads and landings.



CARL-121

P. 32
30

#43

~~14~~
~~10~~

121

Photo
XCVI - ~~Painting~~ of Blizzard House
c. 1895. Courtesy Mr. Dennis F.
Blizzard



RR 121

5 E. Main St. Westminister

W Jacale

76 C. Weach



CARR-121

4/16/12
295 E. Main St.
Electricity
SE
~~SE~~ facade
2/24 C. water

4-

56%

1



CARR 121

295 E. Main St, Westminster

Stone beginning "White's Level" tract and, later,
town of Westminster

9/74 C. Wechs

P.33

Rat

(45)

~~50~~ 70

XL VIII

Original stone in
survey for Westminster
town boundaries

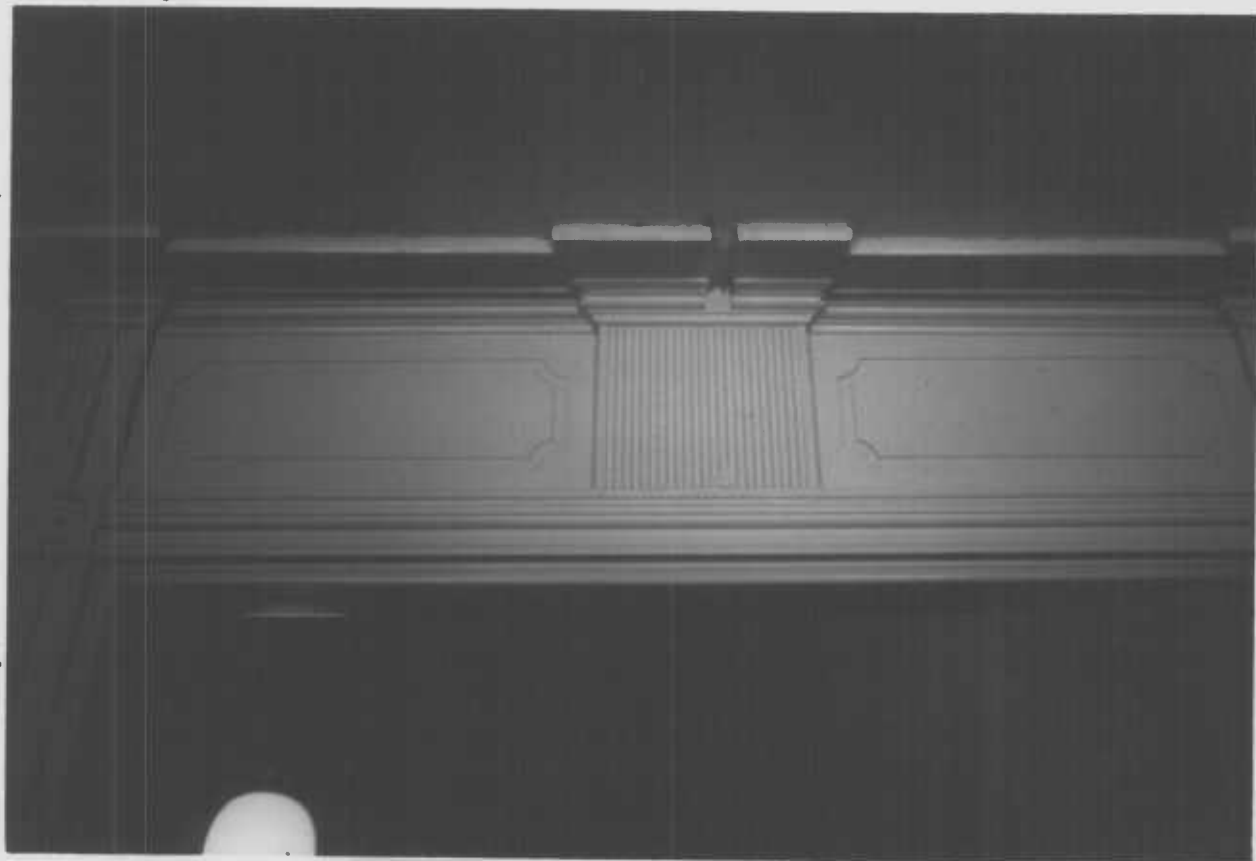


CARR-121

ARTHUR V. BLIZZARD RESIDENCE
295 E. MAIN STREET
WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND
SPRING 1945

(NOTE THE EARLY CORNER MARKER
J.V. 1804)

43⁰66



1

33-47

☐ LINE
☐ HALFTONE
☐ DUOTONE

43⁰66

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

47

P-33

1

#33
P. 31
#47
~~#47~~

XLIX B

Detail of woodwork 
Blizard House C1800

121

CARL-121